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EIGHT PAGES.
GOODS UNDERVALUED.

Importer Richardson So Testifies to the Commission.

Inspector Wiswell Accused of Suspicious Performances.

Goods Declared Damaged Found to Be Perfectly Good.

The customs investigation went on again this morning at the Barge Office. Ex-Secretary Fairchild has not yet returned to town, and Mr. Magone presided as usual, and his colleagues, Mr. Dunn and Mr. Macfarlane, were present.

The Commission had at last secured as a witness Briton Richardson, Secretary of the Silk Association, and he was put on the stand at the opening of the hearing.

Mr. Richardson stated that he had been engaged in the silk business for about forty years. He had read the charges printed in the Dry Goods Chronicle, and that he had a number of documents and correspondence relating to the alleged undervaluation of Japanese silks by J. R. Simon & Co.

The increase in the importations of these goods, he said, began to attract attention in the Spring of 1891, of all the merchants in the trade, as well as the low price at which they were sold by J. R. Simon & Co.

Mr. Richardson had figured out that from Jan. 1 to July 1, 1891, their firm had imported 112,000 dozen silk handkerchiefs, which was a tremendous increase over their former importations.

As showing how this had affected trade the witness read a letter from a Chicago salesman inquiring a sample of one of these handkerchiefs, which, he said, were selling there at \$3.50 a dozen. This, he said, had demoralized the trade there.

In May Mr. Richardson said he visited Assistant Appraiser Corbett, at the Public Stores, and called his attention to these facts. President Cheney, of the Silk Association, was with him.

They were in conversation with Mr. Wiswell, who was then in the office of the Public Stores, and he was in conversation with Mr. Wiswell.

Mr. Wiswell asked if he had seen the Japanese Fan Company's goods, and when he said he had not, Mr. Corbett asked him to go out and get a sample.

"He was gone so long," said the witness, "that I thought he had been to the next room to see what had become of him. He had a piece of silk goods before him, and he was looking at it very intently, and he was saying to himself, 'This is a sample of the goods which he gave us as a sample of the Fan Company's goods.'"

It was found afterwards that this was not a sample of the Fan Company's goods, but from some other source.

When questioned about the invoices, Mr. Wiswell said that the goods, that had been valued so low were damaged.

"We asked to see these goods," said Mr. Richardson, "and when the case was opened we found that the goods were damaged, and we were told that they were damaged by water."

After this Mr. Wiswell was suspended, and an investigation was made by Special Agent McCoy. Mr. Richardson said that McCoy avoided him while he was in New York making the investigation, and the witness said that the goods were damaged by water.

Mr. Richardson said that McCoy was an old chum of his, and he explained the favorable report made by McCoy in the case.

Mr. Richardson produced some correspondence between New York merchants and the agents in China and Japan, in which the latter called attention to the heavy shipments of silk goods from the East, and in which the agents of J. R. Simon & Co., in which the goods were entered at a very low price.

In order to get these letters it was charged undervalued in the invoices, as the prices declared on the invoices were lower than those at which the goods could be bought at wholesale in any part of China.

It was said that letters were frequently sent with these invoices by merchants to the customs, and that the goods were passed without any inspection at all.

"We don't know but that they pack thousands of dozens of handkerchiefs in those bales, and that no duty whatever is paid on them."

The witness said that these bales of raw silk, which come in free of duty, were never examined, and that they were riven in the East, but were delivered to the merchants at once, and although a very slight loss was kept of the goods of this kind it was very difficult to discover them. He said the same merchant imported raw silk and manufactured goods.

"When you run up against such facts as these," said the witness, "it doesn't take an intelligent man very long to come to the conclusion that there have been gross undervaluations."

Mr. Richardson thought the administration of the Customs was lax in every way. He said that the goods were valued at the invoice in the name of some clerk or other irresponsible person.

With regard to the sample of the Japanese silk obtained by the witness at the public stores, he stated that the goods were perfectly good, and well made, and wondered how it could ever have been imported at the price named in the invoice.

"Do you think Wiswell was a competent examiner in the silk department?"

"Perfectly so. I do not think he erred through ignorance by any means."

"Do you know of any panic that occurred in the silk market in Japan very recently?"

ments with the Commissioners, and promised to give any further information that they might need.

Assistant Appraiser Corbett, who was present, was the first witness. He had prepared a long statement, in which he backed up by many figures and comparisons the report that he had given to Appraiser Cooper that J. R. Simon & Co.'s invoice of the same class of goods he found, he said, that Simon & Co.'s invoices had been undervalued from 10 to 20 per cent.

He said that in consequence of many complaints made by merchants and importers, that the low priced goods on the market had been traced to J. R. Simon & Co. by the Customs.

The total loss was estimated at \$10,735.72 on all the invoices examined.

Mr. Corbett said he was not aware of these discrepancies until he went over the invoices of Simon & Co., and compared them with those of other exporters. He said he was then examined in regard to the methods of doing business in his division.

The under valuations of Simon & Co. as compared with the invoice prices of other firms importing the same class of goods, was shown by the figures submitted to range from 5 to 25 per cent, and involved a loss of many thousands of dollars to the Government.

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ALL FIVE SET FREE.

Sentences of the French Panama Canal Prisoners Quashed.

M. Eiffel Walks Out—Charles de Lesseps Too Ill to Go.

Court of Cassation Says the Statute of Limitations Covers the Cases.

PARIS, June 15.—Considerable excitement has been caused by the decision of the Court of Cassation on the appeal of Charles de Lesseps and the other defendants convicted of fraud in connection with the Panama Canal Company. The Court handed down its decision to-day, quashing the sentences on ground that the Statute of Limitations covered the offenses charged, and that the indictment on which the prisoners were tried was irregular.

In consequence of this decision, M. Eiffel was at once liberated from prison. M. Charles de Lesseps, who is in the St. Louis Hospital, suffering with an acute attack of dyspepsia, was informed that he was at liberty, but he was too ill to leave the hospital.

There were five defendants convicted on the trial, which ended on Feb. 3, last. These were Ferdinand de Lesseps, his son, Charles de Lesseps, Henri Cottu and Gustave Eiffel.

Ferdinand de Lesseps was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine; Charles de Lesseps, to three years' imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine; Henri Cottu, to two years' imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine; Gustave Eiffel, to two years' imprisonment and 3,000 francs fine.

Charles de Lesseps, who is very old and ill, was not imprisoned, but the other convicted men were taken to jail. The prisoners appeared from the sentences on the ground that the acts alleged to have been of a criminal character had been committed more than three years before the proceedings against them had been instituted, and that the Statute of Limitations covered the offenses charged.

The proceedings were devoid of sensational interest, the evidence being directed exclusively to ascertaining the cause of the building's collapse.

EULALIE RETURNS TO-MORROW.

She Will Be Inoc, as the Duchess de Montpensier.

"Duchess de Montpensier" is the title by which the Infanta Eulalia will be known on her return to this city from Chicago to-morrow.

The Princess will be the guest of Mr. Juan M. Ceballos, at his home, 28 East Sixty-second street, and she will be supposed to be sojourning in this city in connection with the royal lady intended to assume the title of the Duchess de Montpensier created no surprise here.

The Princess of the Spanish Consul's office, as a half-dozen titles, and, of course, as she was intended to be a royal representative, she has the right to assume any one of her titles.

Her return to this city is the nation's guest upon her departure from Chicago. The expense of entertaining her and her suite in this city alone cost nearly \$12,000.

She Wants an Absolute Divorce from John R. Rogers.

Jaunty little Minnie Palmer, the actress was interrogated to-day before Judge McAdam, of the Superior Court, in her suit for absolute divorce from John R. Rogers, actor and manager.

They were married in May, 1892, at the residence of Mr. Rogers. The suit has not yet been on the calendar for trial, but as Minnie is going abroad her testimony here will be given in her absence.

The actress simply testified as to her marriage with John R. Rogers, and she had no objection to her husband's offenses. Minnie's costume was very pronounced, and she wore a black velvet jacket, and a large, stylish trimmed hat.

Her attire was completed with a fancy light yellow leather skirt, and she wore expensive diamond earrings.

EX-MINISTER PHELPS ARRIVES.

A Passenger on the Steamer Spree from Bremen.

William Walter Phelps, late United States Minister to Germany, and his family were passengers on the North German Lloyd steamer Spree, from Bremen.

Among the other passengers were Herr Graf von Huchler, J. Ferry, artist; Adolf Hupf, of Munich; Herr Wulke, of North Carolina; Herr Wulke and Dr. Emil Schmidt, both of St. Petersburg.

CHILD FALLS THREE FLOORS.

He Struck a Clothes Line and Was Picked Up Quite Unhurt.

Two-year-old John Murphy, living with his parents at 675 Henry street, Brooklyn, fell out of the third-story window to-day and escaped with a slight cut on the left hand.

His mother was preparing dinner when she was startled by a scream, and as she turned she saw her son disappear over the edge of the window.

She ran to the yard, expecting to find him dead, but the little fellow was sitting on the ground, apparently so much frightened that he did not know whether to laugh or cry.

With regard to the clothes line, which broke the force of the fall, and saved his life.

SIX BROTHERS HIT BY LIGHTNING.

THE DEFENSE OPENS.

After Another Heavy Blow to the Borden Prosecution.

District-Attorney's Prussic Acid Evidence Rejected To-Day.

One More Hatchet Found Which May Have to Do With the Case.

NEW BEDFORD, June 15.—The tenth day of the Borden murder trial opened hot, with a big crowd in attendance. Miss Borden was overwhelmed with floral offerings this morning, and appeared in excellent spirits, despite the seeming disheartening significance of yesterday's proceedings, when the Justices decided tentatively to admit the Government's testimony concerning the prisoner's attempt to purchase prussic acid.

Preliminary evidence was introduced this morning under objections and exceptions.

Charles H. Lawton, druggist, testified that he knew of no other than medicinal purposes for which prussic acid is used.

Daniel Hathaway, analytical chemist, said it was unsuitable for cleaning furs and very volatile, while Dr. Dolan said that its vapor was very poisonous.

Francis A. C. Evidence Rejected. After consultation, the Justices, at 10:20, announced that the preliminary evidence did not come up to proper, and excluded the evidence of attempted purchases of prussic acid.

After the introduction of exhibits, at 10:30, the Commonwealth rested its case and a recess for fifteen minutes was taken.

During the recess the prisoner talked earnestly with Mrs. Feasenden, of Boston, the first lady who has spoken to her in the court-room.

The Defense Opens.

At 10:30 the jury filed into their place again. Counsel for the defense were all ready to begin the presentation of their side of the case, and Mr. Jennings became their spokesman. He said:

"One of the victims of this murder was a personal friend, and I had known him since a boy, and if I become more affected than I am by the tragedy, I must be ascribed to this feeling. A lawyer does not cease ever to be a man."

"The brutal character of the wounds were only equalled by the time and place of the murders. I don't propose to go into detail about the character of those wounds, but you know what they were. The person who was arrested for doing the deed was the youngest daughter of one of the victims. Up to that time she was of spotless character and reputation, and had moved in and out of that house for twenty-one years, with her mother and father and sister."

"We shall show you that this young woman led a spotless life, was interested in religious work, and was a devoted wife for some reason, the Government seemed to have fastened the crime upon her. There is always an outcry for some one to be punished for such a crime, but we want the guilty punished, not the innocent."

The prisoner sat with her face buried in her handkerchief during her counsel's plea.

After distinguishing circumstantial from direct evidence, and illustrating the dangerous character of circumstantial evidence, Mr. Jennings said every link in the Government's chain of evidence must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, including motive, weapon, exclusive opportunity and intent.

The defense would show relations between the father and daughter which excluded a motive for her killing him, and the motive to kill the mother alone would not be enough, for the Government claimed that the same person killed both.

Mr. Jennings claimed that the weapon had not been connected with the defendant. Evidence of exclusive opportunity would be negated by showing that other people were around at the time of the murder; that others entered the barn before the officer who testified that its floor was covered with dust, and that the burned dress was covered with paint and was not worn on the day of the murder.

Mr. Jennings closed his address at 11:30 and Mary A. Durfee was called. Mr. Jennings conducted the direct examination.

The witness, Durfee, not being ready when called, Martha Chagnon was put on the stand. She testified that at 11 o'clock on the night before the murder she heard a noise like the pounding on wood in the direction of the Borden house. It continued for five minutes. She made no investigation.

Mrs. Chagnon confirmed her stepdaughter's testimony about the noise. She examined, first thought it sounded like a dog.

John W. Grouard testified that he painted the Borden house in May, 1892, and he thought that the prisoner was in the vicinity of the paint tubs.

The Court excluded the evidence that the fall before the murder Mrs. Durfee saw an animal crawling about Mr. Borden and a stranger.

Charles N. Gifford and Uriah Kirby said that they saw a man on the street steps near the Chagnon house at 11 o'clock on the night before the murder.

Mark Chase said he saw a man with a brown hat and black coat in a

ONE GOOD FREE LUNCH DESERVES ANOTHER.

Bug in front of the Borden house just before 11 o'clock. Noon recess.

Another Hatchet Found on a Barn Roof Near the For an House.

FALL RIVER, Mass., June 15.—Last night a boy named Potter, son of C. C. Potter, clerk in the Fall River Water-Works office, while looking for a ball, found a hatchet on the top of John Crow's barn, which is located just in the rear of the Borden property.

Mr. Potter this morning reported his find to the police, and also sought an interview with the counsel for defense, but was unable to find Mr. Jennings. He still has the hatchet in his possession, and describes it as an ordinary implement with hammer-head.

The handle was weather-beaten and the blade covered with rust. Some of the particles of rust being removed, a slight coloring of gilt was disclosed, which would either indicate that the hatchet was at one time used as an ornament or was quite new when lost or discarded.

THREE YOUNG BURGLARS CAUGHT.

They Were Breaking Into a Grocery on Sixth Avenue.

POLICEMAN Gilmartin, of the Mercer street police, captured three young burglars this morning.

They were attempting to break into John D. Corde's grocery store at 130 Sixth avenue and had already burst in a panel with a large jimmy when the officer came.

Gilmartin caught one of the men while the others dashed up the avenue.

Gilmartin threatened to shoot, and one of the men bolted. The other was caught by Policeman Hallenbeck.

The prisoners gave their names as William McKenna, aged seventeen, of 1047 Avenue A, and William O'Brien and John McLaughlin, both eighteen years of age, without homes.

Several articles bearing the address of a drug store at 15 West Forty-second street were found on them and they were remanded in Jefferson Court to-day until the drug store robbery case can be investigated.

BABE'S BODY IN A CLOSET.

Possible Case of Infanticide Discovered in a Tenement.

Evidence of a possible case of infanticide was discovered this morning in the tenement-house 228 East Forty-fifth street.

The body of an infant, one day old, was found in a closet. It was taken to the Morgue.

The Coroner has been notified.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Mrs. Henry Lost Her Life in a Small Fire.

Mrs. Elizabeth Henry, forty-four years old, was found burned to death this forenoon in her apartment, 241 East Fifty-ninth street, where a fire broke out at 9:45 o'clock.

The blaze, which started on the top floor, where Mrs. Henry lived with her husband, Peter, caused a damage of only \$75.

Mrs. Henry was alone in her apartment, and was searching for vermin in her bedroom, when a kerosene lamp, which must have exploded, while she was crouching at the foot of the bed, found she was in that position.

There are four children in the family, but they were not at home.

Alleged Firebug Caught.

NEWARK, N. J., June 15.—John Monkin, who was wanted for attempting to burn the house 39 Monroe street, was arrested by Detective Wright this morning. He was held for trial. It is alleged that Monkin had a quarrel with the owner of the house and wanted to burn it out of revenge.

NOW IT'S THE DUKE'S TURN.

MONMOUTH IN COLLISION. CLEARING-HOUSE MEETING.

Ran Into a Tramp Steamship Down the Bay.

Heavy Fog Over the Bay and River.

The twin-screw steambark Monmouth, of the Sandy Hook line, which was towed into the Central Railroad basin at Communipaw this morning, reported she had been in collision with an unknown tramp steambark down the bay, and that her hull was badly battered.

The dense fog was the cause of the collision.

The Monmouth left for Sandy Hook at 4:30 this morning, with a big cargo, but no passengers.

Capt. Martin, of the Monmouth, said the tramp steambark had no right to be lying at anchor where the collision occurred.

Thick banks of fog, which overlay the river and bay, this morning, rendered navigation perilous in the extreme. The fog was especially thick at 6 o'clock, and did not begin to disappear until two hours later.

It was very thick in the Sound, and extended along a great portion of the Atlantic coast, and far out to sea. No vessels were reported at Sandy Hook up to 10 o'clock this morning.

The North German Lloyd steamer Spree, which crossed the bar at midnight, came to anchor in the lower bay and did not reach Quarantine until nearly 10 o'clock this morning.

All the Sound steamers were from six to seven hours late in reaching their piers.

CITY OF RICHMOND BEACHED.

The Steamer Struck the Rocks Off Sands Point.

PORT WASHINGTON, L. I., June 15.—The steamer City of Richmond is lying here on the beach.

During the dense fog at 8 o'clock this morning the City of Richmond ran on the rocks off Sands Point.

When the vessel struck the rocks the captain realized for the first time that he was out of his reckoning. He then headed the boat for the shore, and ran her upon the beach.

There were no passengers aboard at the time. The steamer was on her way to New York to take a load of excursionists.

No one but the captain and crew was aboard.

The City of Richmond has five feet of water in her hold. She is resting on the bottom, and is in no immediate danger. The extent of her injuries is not yet known.

Sands Point is a very dangerous reef, running far out into the water, which was shallow. There is a lighthouse on the point, but it was probably not lighted at 8 o'clock this morning. The light is generally put out at daylight.

The wrecking of the City of Richmond is the second time in the vessel's history that she has been beached. The captain has notified the owners of the vessel, and an attempt will be made to float her as soon as possible.

The City of Richmond belongs in New London, Conn. She left New London last night on her trip to New York. Her present owners bought her about a week ago.

Another City of Richmond came to grief some months ago at her pier in the East River. She was burned almost to the water's edge, and one life was lost. The hull was bought by John H. Starin, who rebuilt her. She is now in the harbor under a different name.

In the morning take one or more of Beacham's Pills with a drink of water instead of mineral water.

THE COMMITTEE IN SESSION TO-DAY BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.